

INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY China

SUBJECT Railway and Travel Conditions, Hong Kong to Peiping

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- guards were dressed as soldiers. Customs inspectors, in greenish-brown characters, were armed with type M-3 submachine guns and they were stationed on each coach from Shenchuan to Canton, but they did not make any inspections. They wore red star insignia marked "1 August", the date the Chinese Communist army was established.
- Persons who disembarked between Canton and Hongyang were strictly inspected. Communist troops guarding the railway were armed with Japanese and American rifles, submachine guns, and light and heavy machine guns. Guerrillas were disrupting railway communications between Canton and Hongyang, and large quantities of military supplies accompanied by armed guards were being moved southward through Hongyang.
- No passengers were inspected on the Wuchang (117-17, 30-32)-Hankow ferry. At the Hankow railway station, an inspection of passengers was made, but it was not as strict as the inspections south of Hankow. Armed troops were guarding the Hankow railway station and the entrance to the wharf.
- percent of the bridges between Hankow and Peiping had been closed. Railway passengers, crossing this bridge, were not allowed to look out at the bridge. Workers from the 4 Field Army were still repairing bridges.
- Military personnel were permitted to travel by rail at half fare. They were required to carry travel orders, but other passengers were not. Passengers were inspected by security police at most stations, and railway conductors were always accompanied by a member of the security police.

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